



Via Além – techniques and vision

Pivô Research is Pivô's residency programme, which annually hosts approximately 25 national and international artists along the year to facilitate artistic exchange and stimulate creative processes. Throughout 2016, during her yearlong residency at Pivô, Danish artist Marie Kølbaek Iversen has been investigating the dynamics and impacts of fright and trauma across human cultures and lives.

The artist concludes her residency with a symposium, taking place within a two-day research exhibition curated by Kølbaek Iversen for the occasion. Under the title *Via Além – techniques and visions*, she has invited artists, writers and therapists from Brazil and abroad to contribute with artworks and presentations, in order to investigate processes of 'becoming-other,' and the transformative potentials of fright.

Kølbaek Iversen's exploration of fright draws on her on-going projects such as "Mirror Therapy," which was shown at this year's Gwangju Biennial in South Korea, and her work cycle "lo/l." Through these projects she examines the potentials of fright and trauma – feelings, which she however interprets as power tools, not as paralyzing agents: if one can learn to cope with being frightened in the encounter with the unknown, transformative potentials might open up. As such, her own process of moving to a faraway country has served as a real-life vehicle for artistic and theoretical investigations of encountering the unknown.

Fright is one of the innate affects that have been preserved throughout evolution in a variety of species. It can thus be called an 'interspecies commons', as it is shared by humans and non-humans alike. Despite being a survival instinct, fear and fright can also be induced and manipulated to function as a political and ideological means of oppression, according to French philosopher Paul Virilio. Through her research, Kølbaek Iversen is therefore searching for ways to (re)claim the faculties of fear and fright, in order to conceive of new entry points into the future, *through* and *beyond* oppressive orders.

Thus, in October 2016 she travelled to Acre to establish connections with Amazonian indigenous tribes, who regard fright as a necessary step on the path of individual and collective transformation. According to the artist by way of etnopsychiatrists Tobie Nathan and Cathrine Grandsard, Amazonian Amerindians culture fright through the ayawaska ceremony to learn how to cope with being frightened – not mastering fright – for the sake of becoming-other. Thus synthesizing European, South American and Amerindian cosmovisions, Kølbaek Iversen rehearses a possible narrative of how to perceive of worlds

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based on unknown logical principles; how to conceive of significant change in troubled and oppressive times.

Ovartaci, posthumously participating in the symposium, is emblematic for the mobilizations and intentions of *Via Além – techniques and visions*. Ovartaci is the feminine alter-ego of Louis Marcussen, who migrated to Argentina in the 1920s to try his luck as a hired hand. In 1929, he returned to his native Denmark as a changed man after having stayed with an indigenous tribe on the border between Argentina and Brazil. The gates of his perception had been opened: Marcussen had become aligned with the spirit world, and was receiving. Back in Denmark he was soon admitted to a mental institution and diagnosed with schizophrenia. During his long confinement lasting until his death in 1985, Marcussen however produced an impressive oeuvre documenting the parallel worlds he had gained access to.

Ovartaci is a symbol of the possibility of breaking the binary logics between ill and well, conscious and subconscious, home and away; of remaining in the shadowlands between such poles to receive of the unknown and the becoming as it makes itself known – sometimes frighteningly so.

Eleven participants will be contributing to the symposium and the research exhibition. What unites them is an interest in exploring the mind's elasticity through practical and conceptual proposals to question the commonplace of status quo.

The symposium runs from 1.30 pm to 5 pm on Saturday December 10th with contributions by Júlia Roubouças, Rivane Neuenschwander, Júnia Rjeille Cordeiro, Guattari Reading Circle, Jørgen Vestergaard, and Marie Kølbaek Iversen.

It takes place within the setting of a research exhibition curated by Marie Kølbaek Iversen for the occasion encompassing works by Balthazar Berling, Glenn Christian, Lea Porsager, Rolf Nowotny, Ovartaci, and Marie Kølbaek Iversen. The research exhibition opens on Dec. 9th, 1 pm – 7 pm.

Immediately after the symposium, at 5 pm, Marie Kølbaek Iversen hosts the São Paulo launch of *If Earth were a Body, Borders would be Wounds* – a book about “Mirror Therapy,” on show in the research exhibition. The launch takes place at La Central on Pivô's ground floor.

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Participants in Via além – techniques and visions:

Balthazar Berling (artist, FR): participates in the research exhibition with the film work “Le fait du corps (Barthélémy).”

Guattari Reading Circle (artist, curator, and critic, Mathias Kryger, and artist Arendse Krabbe, both DK): Guattari Reading Circle contributes with presentation of *Schizo Archive*, a collective film project and exhibition made by Arendse Krabbe, Mathias Kryger, Nina Wengel and Katrine Dirckinck-Homfeld. In addition, they host a two-hour collective reading session of texts by Félix Guattari in the Ibirapuera Park as part of the Biennial’s public programme. The session is followed by social and physical experiments conducted by Pia Lindman (artist in the 32nd São Paulo Biennial) to explore potentials of “other-directionality” and fright inside and outside an institutional context. More info and <http://www.32bienal.org.br/en/event/o/3297/>

Glenn Christian (writer, DK): participates in the research exhibition with a text piece originally written in Danish for Rolf Nowotny’s installation “CONKCLOACA.” The text is translated into English for the occasion of the event.

Lea Porsager (artist, DK): participates in the research exhibition with the installation “Masturbatory Power Tools.”

Júlia Rebouças (curator, co-curator of the 32nd São Paulo Biennial, BR): participates in the symposium with a presentation on scale and fright.

Júnia Rjeille Cordeiro (occupational therapist, BR): participates in the symposium with a presentation about occupational therapy and self-awareness in healing processes.

Jørgen Vestergaard (film director, DK): contributes to the symposium with his film “Ovartaci – Artist in a Mental Insitution” from 1999.

Marie Kølbaek Iversen (artist, DK): initiator and facilitator of the event. She participates in the research exhibition with an adapted version of “Mirror Therapy,” and in the symposium with a performative monologue.

Ovartaci (artist, DK): participates posthumously in the symposium through the projection of artworks related to South America.

Rivane Neuenschwander (artist, BR): participates in the symposium with an introduction to her project “The Name of Fear.”

Rolf Nowotny (artist, DK): participates in the research exhibition with new works produced particularly for this context.

The participation of Guattari Reading Group and Rolf Nowotny in *Via além – techniques and visions* is made possible through the generous support of the Danish Arts

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Council enabling these artists to be present at the research exhibition and symposium.

Service:

The 9th and 10th of December at Pivô.

with affiliated event on the 8th of December in Ibirapuera Park in collaboration with the 32nd Biennial of São Paulo (More information and registration:

December 8th: Thursday in Ibirapuera Park

10 am - 1 pm:

Guattari Reading Circle (Mathias Kryger and Arendse Krabbe) host a two-hour collective reading session of texts by Félix Guattari followed by social and physical experiments conducted by Pia Lindman (artist in the 32nd São Paulo Biennial) as an activation of her work. The event is conceived in collaboration between Pivô and the 32nd São Paulo Biennial and has a capacity of 20 people. More information and registration: <http://www.32biental.org.br/en/event/o/3297/>

December 9th: Friday at Pivô

13h – 19h: opening of research exhibition at Pivô.

December 10th: Saturday at Pivô

13h30 – 17h: symposium at Pivô

13h30 Marie Kølbaek Iversen

14h00 Júlia Rebouças

14h30 Rivane Neuenschwander

15h00 break

15h15 Jørgen Vestergaard "Ovartaci - Artist in a Mental Institution"

15h45 Júnia Rjeille Cordeiro

16h15 Guattari Reading Circle

17h: Book launch at La Central

Addresses:

Ibirapuera park: Biennial pavilion, meeting point at the biennial's entrance facing the MAM

Pivô: Avenida Ipiranga, 200, lj. 54 - Copan

La Central: Avenida Ipiranga 200 – Copan

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